THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (e) Under the special scheme for allotment of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) and LPG distributorships to the widows/next of kin of the Defence personnel killed in action in 'Operation Vijay' (Kargil), allotments of 277 retail outlets dealerships and 162 LPG distributorships were approved by the Government.

Out of the allotments made, about 18 allottees have expressed reluctance or have refused to accept the offers for family reasons or on grounds of their preference for the existing employment with the Government, etc.

Purchase of petroleum products from private companies

†229. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. had purchased petroleum products from oil companies in the private sector in recent years;

(b) if so, the details of petroleum products purchased by the above companies from the private sector oil companies in India during the last three years, togetherwith the year-wise quantity of such petroleum products purchased; and

(c) the prices at which these were purchased during each of the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The year-wise details of quantiity of petroleum products purchased during the last three years from Private Sector Oil Companies are as follows:-

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(In Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT))

Year	MS	SKO	HSD	ATF	LPG
2000-2001	1228	2358	10994	13	2014
2001-2002	1216	3224	10120	9	2475
2002-2003	1403	3158	9576	0	2501

(c) The total amount paid year-wise for the petroleum products purchased from private sector oil companies for the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	MS	SKO	HSD	ATF	LPG
2000-2001	1702.14	2911.25	14646.39	20	3284.43
2001-2002	1418.87	3500.49	11635.78	12	3289.23
2002-2003	2258.84	4031.20	13146.79	00	3665.10

Reduction in prices of petroleum products

230. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of petrol and petroleum products were reduced on May 15, 2003 in tune with the global softening of crude prices;

(b) if so, the percentage of fall in global prices of crude and how far this reduction was proportionate to the reduction in prices of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products; and

(c) the number of times the prices have since been readjusted and the details thereof?